

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 119828
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
ACDA-07 CU-02 IO-13 DHA-02 ORM-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 /078 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:JKWARD:DHT
APPROVED BY EUR/CE:DANDERSON
EUR/P:FSEIDNER

-----242255Z 029121 /70

O R 242208Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 119828

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, US

SUBJECT: MAY 24 PRESS BRIEFING: US-GDR RELATIONS

1. HERE FOLLOWS VERBATIM TEXT OF TRANSCRIPT OF THAT PART
OF THE MAY 24 DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING REGARDING GDR
MOVES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE US:

BEGIN TEXT:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 119828

Q: HAVE YOU ANY STATEMENT OR COMMENT ABOUT THIS STORY IN
TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST, REPORTING THAT EAST GERMAN NEWS,
REPORTINGS FROM NEWS STORY -- IMPROVED U.S. TIES -- WHICH
WAS CONFIRMED THIS MORNING BY THE EAST GERMAN EMBASSY?

A: THE REPORT IN THE PAPER, THE POST, IS ESSENTIALLY
CORRECT.

THE GDR RECENTLY PROPOSED A NUMBER OF STEPS FOR EXPANDING RELATIONS, AND WE ARE STUDYING THESE CAREFULLY. MOST OF THESE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN MADE BEFORE, AND THE GDR HAS INCLUDED THESE IN THEIR LATEST NOTE.

WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THESE PROPOSALS WITH THE GDR ON A SYSEMATIC BASIS.

Q: WHAT CONCLUSION DO YOU DRAW FROM THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE MADE THESE PROPOSALS?

A: WELL WE DON'T DRAW ANY PARTICULAR CONCLUSIONS FROM IT. WE ARE SIMPLY STUDYING IT.

Q: WELL YOU SHOULD --

Q: PARDON ME, PLEASE; DO YOU HAVE THERE ANY BACKGROUND ON --

AS I REMEMBER IT, WHEN WE FIRST ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH EAST GERMANY THAT ONE OF THE MAIN QUESTIONS WAS THE REPARATIONS OF JEWS WHO HAD PROPERTY TAKEN FROM THEM. HAS THAT QUESTION BEEN SETTLED, OR IS THAT --

A: WHEN WE ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH THE GDR WE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THREE OF OUR PRINCIPAL INTERESTS WERE: SETTling HUMANITARIAN CASES. REACHING AGREEMENT ON A CONSULAR CONVENTION. AND SETTling CLAIMS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 119828

NOW, WITHIN THE HUMANITARIAN CASE FRAMEWORK I WOULD ASSUME THAT THE QUESTION YOU RAISED WOULD PROPERLY FIT.

Q: NO, INTO THE CLAIMS, I THINK, IS --

A: WELL, NOW, WHAT WAS YOUR QUESTION AGAIN THEN?

Q: THE CLAIMS QUESTION ESSENTIALLY IS STILL PENDING?

A: YES, THT ONE IS STILL PENDING. THE GDR HAS ADDRESSED ITSELF TO ONE OF THESE THREE IN THIS PARTICULAR INITIATIVE.

Q: HODDING, THE REPORT IN THE POST SAID THAT AMONG THE PROPOSALS WAS IMPROVED CONTACT AND FACILITIES FOR JOURNALISTS. WAS THAT A PROPOSAL WHICH THEY INITIATED?

A: I BELIEVE THAT IT IS.

Q: DO YOU CONNECT THEIR WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS THESE THINGS NOW WITH THE -- EITHER THE HELSINKI TREATY OR WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY?

A: I DON'T THINK AT THIS POINT WE'RE PREPARED TO MAKE CONNECTIONS. WE JUST NOW HAVE GOTTEN THESE PROPOSALS.

Q: HODDING, YOU SAID THAT SOME OF THESE PROPOSALS HAD BEEN MADE BEFORE. COULD YOU CLARIFY THE TIMING ON THIS?

A: YES. THE GDR HAS MADE A NUMBER OF THEM. I DON'T HAVE A CLARIFICATION ON WHEN THEY MADE WHAT SPECIFICALLY.

Q: SOME OF THESE ARE A REPETITION OF PREVIOUS, IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 119828

A: YES.

Q: COULD THAT CHRONOLOGY BE CLARIFIED?

A: I'LL TRY TO GET THAT.

Q: HODDING, RATHER THAN SAY THAT THE WHOLE STORY IS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT, COULD YOU TELL US, ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, WHAT THE SITUATION IS?

A: I'M SORRY. I THOUGHT THAT WHAT I SAID IS THAT THEY HAD MADE, PROPOSED A NUMBER --

Q: YOU SAID ESSENTIALLY CORRECT, WHICH MEANS THERE MAY BE PARTS OF IT THAT ARE OVERDONE OR NOT CORRECT OR WHAT-EVER. SO WHY DON'T YOU TELL US WHAT YOU SEE THE SITUATION IS?

A: YES, I THINK HERE THAT THE THRUST OF THE STORY IS CORRECT IN THAT THEY HAVE MADE A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD LEAD TOWARD EXPANDING RELATIONS, THAT THESE BASICALLY GO TO THE QUESTION OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION, AND THAT THIS, WE THINK, IS A MAJOR STEP TOWARD ACCOMMODATING OUR CONCERN ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE, REITERATING, OF COURSE, THAT THE CONSULAR AND CLAIMS ISSUES ARE NOT ADDRESSED IN THIS PACKAGE.

Q: WELL, THAT STORY GOES ON TO MAKE A FURTHER POINT THAT THE EAST GERMANS APPARENTLY ARE DOING IT IN PREPARATION FOR THE HELSINKI FOLLOWUP CONFERENCE. IS THAT PART OF IT ALSO CORRECT?

A: WELL, AGAIN, THAT'S A SPECULATION RAISED IN THE STORY.
I DIDN'T SEE IN THAT STORY AN EAST GERMAN SOURCE SAYING,
"THIS IS WHY WE'RE DOING IT," AND I'M NOT PREPARED AT
THIS POINT TO SPECULATE ALONG THOSE LINES.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 STATE 119828

Q: THE STORY ALSO QUOTES AN UNNAMED SOURCE IN THE STATE
DEPARTMENT WHO CHARACTERIZED THE EAST GERMAN MOVE AS A
GIANT STEP. WOULD YOU AGREE WITH THAT CHARACTERIZATION?

A: I THINK I SAID THIS BEFORE, BUT THERE ARE SOME 20,000
PEOPLE THAT WORK FOR THIS DEPARTMENT, AND I SIMPLY CAN'T

RESPOND EACH TIME SOMEBODY FINDS SOMEBODY IN SOME HALLWAY
TO SAY SOMETHING WITHOUT A SOURCE, A NAME, ATTRIBUTED.

Q: HODDING, DO YOU HAVE ANY -- CAN I CHANGE THE SUBJECT?

A: SURE. PREFERABLE.

Q: I HAVE ONE MORE QUESTION ON IT. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY
DISCUSSIONS ON A SYSTEMATIC BASIS? ARE THERE MEETINGS
SET UP?

A: THAT I DON'T HAVE AS SOMETHING BEING SET UP, BUT I
BELIEVE THAT THIS OBVIOUSLY IMPLIES THAT WE WILL BE HAVING
A MORE, RATHER THAN LESS, FORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM
ON WHAT THEY PROPOSED.

Q: IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION IS TRYING TO
IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH CUBA, VIET NAM, AND EAST GERMANY.
ALL ARE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION, THE
STATE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION, ON NORTH KOREA?

A: I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE THAT BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE
IT IN FRONT OF ME, AND I'M NOT PREPARED TO TRY TO WING
IT ON THAT. I'LL BE GLAD TO TAKE IT TO GET AN ANSWER
TO THAT.

Q: REFERRING TO THE CONSULAR AGREEMENT THAT IS MENTIONED
HERE, WOULD THE UNITED STATES SIGN AN AGREEMENT IF BERLIN,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 06 STATE 119828

WHICH IS THE CAPITAL OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC,

WERE INCLUDED IN THIS AGREEMENT?

A: EXCUSE ME, IN WHAT AGREEMENT?

Q: IN THIS CONSULAR AGREEMENT.

A: WELL --

Q: YOU KNOW, BERLIN AS A WHOLE IS UNDER THE FOUR-POWER
ADMINISTRATION.

A: YES.

Q: AND THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE GDR IS THAT EAST BERLIN
IS PART OF BERLIN, IT'S THE CAPITAL OF THIS COUNTRY, AND
IT MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE CONSULAR AGREEMENT.

A: OUR POSITION ON THIS IS UNCHANGED, AND I'M NOT PRE-
PARED TO GO BEYOND THAT. VANCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE119828
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JKWARD:DHT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770185-0706
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770522/aaaaatdd.tel
Line Count: 243
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c846d18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2386446
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAY 24 PRESS BRIEFING: US-GDR RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, GC, US
To: BERLIN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c846d18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009